

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment amends claims 1 and 6, cancels claims 5, 11 and 13 and adds claims 14 and 15. Pending in the application are claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10, 12, and 14-15, of which claims 1, 6 and 14 are independent. The following comments address all stated grounds for rejection and place the presently pending claims, as identified above, in condition for allowance. *No new matter is added.*

Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 5, which the Examiner indicates to recite patentable subject matter.

Claim 6 is amended to specify that the circuit is ---configured--- to monitor AC current noise, as suggested by the Examiner.

New independent claim 14 corresponds to canceled claim 11 rewritten in independent form. Claim 15 corresponds to canceled claim 13. *No new matter is added.*

Amendment and cancellation of the claims are not to be construed as an acquiescence to any of the objections/rejections set forth in the instant Office Action, and were done solely to expedite prosecution of the application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the claims as originally filed, or similar claims, in this or one or more subsequent patent applications.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the close review of the claims and for indicating that claims 5, 11 and 13 recite patentable subject matter. In the Office Action, the Examiner maintains his rejection of claims 1, 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Frenck and of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Weisstuch.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position, because the cited references do not teach or suggest a voltage follower that applies a voltage between two electrodes that reflects previous values of a current flowing between the two electrodes, as

recited in claim 1. However, in order to expedite allowance of this application, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Applicant has also rewritten claim 11 in independent form with new claim 14. As recognized by the Examiner, the cited references do not teach or suggest an integrating circuit for integrating a current flowing between two electrodes. Therefore, pending independent claims 1 and 14, and dependent claims 2, 10, 12 and 15 are patentable and in condition for allowance.

Regarding independent claim 6 and dependent claims 7-8, which depend from claim 6, Applicant has amended the claims, as suggested by the Examiner to positively recite structure drawn to the monitoring of AC current noise. Because the Weisstuch reference does not teach or suggest electronic circuitry configured to monitor AC current noise, Applicant submits that claims 6-8 are also patentable and in condition for allowance.

35. U.S.C. 103 Rejections

Regarding the rejection of claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Weisstuch in view of Jovancicevic, neither the Weisstuch reference nor the Jovancicevic teaches or suggests the subject matter of independent claim 1. Specifically, neither reference teaches or suggests a voltage follower that applies a voltage between two electrodes that reflects previous values of a current flowing between the two electrodes and/or an integrating circuit for integrating a current flowing between two electrodes, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) also be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, however, the Examiner considers that obstacles to allowance of these claims persist, we invite a telephone call to Applicant's representative.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. FHW-101US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Anthony A. Laurentano

Registration No.: 38,220

LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP

28 State Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02109

(617) 227-7400

(617) 742-4214 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant